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STOCKTON MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO BURGLARY OF HISTORIC POST OFFICE IN HOLT, CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL DEVIN MORGAN, 26, of Stockton, California and JEREMY SCOTT BEAL, 25, also of Stockton, California pleaded guilty today before United States District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to conspiracy to steal U.S. Mail and postal property from the Holt U.S. Post Office and to burglarizing the post office.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, MORGAN and BEAL admitted burglarizing the Holt Post Office, located at 10340 Whiskey Slough Road, Holt, California, in the evening and early morning hours between February 4 and February 5, 2008. MORGAN also admitted that he destroyed historic lobby boxes and burglarized the Holt U.S. Post Office two days before (between February 1-2, 2008). During the February 4-5, 2008 burglary, MORGAN, BEAL, and an uncharged juvenile destroyed the rear wall of this historic rural Holt Post Office, which is on the site of a former Pony Express pick-up and drop-off location. The conspirators used a pry tool to remove portions of the exterior wall, then entered its secure area and stole Post Office property, postal customer mail, U.S. Treasury checks, and Postal Money Orders. The Holt Post Office, had been in operation since at least 1918, suffered severe damage and was only recently re-opened. Both MORGAN and BEAL were on California state supervision for prior unrelated criminal activity when they burglarized the Holt Post Office.

MORGAN and BEAL face up to five years jail on the conspiracy charge and an additional five years jail on the burglary charge. Each defendant also faces \$500,000 in fines, restitution, and a three-year term of supervised release following any jail term. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

Each of the defendants was remanded into custody following their guilty pleas.

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